Andhra Pradesh under the Government of India and one Institute of Handloom Technology at Venkatagiri in Andhra Pradesh under the State Government are functioning.

Recommendations of Sathyam Committee

4105. SHRI N.R. DASARI :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom workers all over the country have opposed the implementation of the recommendations of Sathyam Committee as they are thoroughly injurious to the interest of the handloom workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir; representations have been received in this regard.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Expert Committee on Textile Policy under the chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam are under consideration of the Government and the representations received from various handloom wavers Cooperative Societies etc. would be given due consideration before accepting the recommendations pertaining to handloom sector.

Development of Handloom Industry in Gujarat

4106. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are developing handloom industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(d) the steps taken to develop handloom industry in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has been implementing various schemes and programmes for the overall development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers. The schemes include Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Freelance Designer Scheme, Export Development Scheme, Decentralised Training of Weavers Scheme, Supply of Yarn at Mill Gate Price Scheme and Hank Yarn Obligation Order etc.

(c) Funds to the tune of Rs. 9411.82 lakh during 1998-99 and Rs. 8475.90 lakh during 1999-2000 were sanctioned to various States including Gujarat under various schemes.

(d) On receipt of viable proposals from the State Government for the development of handloom industry, funds to the tune of Rs. 51.29 lakhs were released under various handloom development schemes i.e. Project Package, Group Insurance, Thrift Fund, MDA and New Insurance Scheme to the State Government of Gujarat during 1999-2000.

Closure of Textile Mills

4107. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of textile mills lying closed at present;

(b) the number of States in which these are lying closed;

(c) the State in which the number of closed mills is the highest;

(d) whether Government will give priority to reopen these mills in the States, particularly in Gujarat;

(e) if so, by when these will start functioning; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) As on 29-2-2000, there were 342 cotton/manmade fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) reported to be closed in the country, at present.

(b) There are seventeen (17) States in which these mills are lying closed.

(c) In the State of Tamil Nadu, the number of closed/manmade fibre textile